

REMARKS

Claims 18-33 are included in the prosecution of this application, with claims 1-14 and 34-38 being withdrawn from consideration. Also, claims 15-16 have been cancelled in the preliminary amendment dated January 3, 2001.

It is noted that misnumbered claim 37 has been renumbered 38.

Claims 18-20 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Delmore et al (5939339).

Delmore teaches compressive dressings with absorbent materials attached thereto. Delmore does not teach a dressing designed with two different wound-contacting surfaces so as to provide disparate wound healing characteristics depending on which face of the dressing is placed in contact with the wound.

Claims 18-20, 22-25, 28-29 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lang et al (5147338).

Lang teaches a dressing which specifically has a wound facing layer and an outer barrier film. Lang does not teach a dressing designed with two different wound-contacting surfaces as to provide disparate wound healing characteristics depending on which face of the dressing is placed in contact with the wound.

Claims 18-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lorenz et al (5258421) by itself or in view of Delmore et al (5939339).

Lorenz teaches a tacky gel used as a wound dressing material. Lorenz further teaches that this gel may be applied to a substrate film, including interpenetrating

polymer networks of silicone or polytetrafluoroethylene. Lorenz specifically teaches that these gels are intended to adhere to skin (col. 2, line 34). Lorenz teaches that substrate films may be used as a backing material (col. 5, line 55). Lorenz teaches away from a dressing designed with two different wound-contacting surfaces as to provide disparate wound healing characteristics depending on which face of the dressing is placed in contact with the wound, since Lorenz explicitly calls for a wound-contact face and an outer backing material.

The Office Action states that Lorenz does not teach a specific example or the use of a pigmented substrate.

Claims 21 and 26-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang et al (5147338) in view of Lorenz et al (5258421).

The prior art and the references do not teach this combination of references.

It is noted that the Office Action states that Lang et al do not teach the instant IPN.

The Office Action states that it would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use silicone-polytetrafluoroethylene IPN membranes since it is particularly useful for wound dressing because it keeps moisture in while absorbing wound exudates as taught by Lorenz et al. However, the prior art and the references do not teach this combination of references.

Claims 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang et al (5147338) in view of Delmore et al (5939339).

The Office Action admits that Lang et al do not teach pigmented layers.

The Office Action states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill in the art at the time the invention was made to look to Delmore who teaches a pigmented substrate if it's desirous for one to make a distinction between layers. However, no prior art reference, and no combination of them, suggests this combination.

CONCLUSION

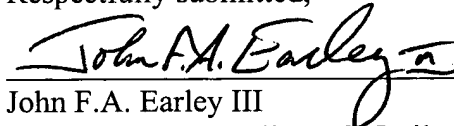
It is believed that the claims define a new, useful and non-obvious invention. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

If this Amendment does not result in the allowance of the application, the Examiner is requested to telephone the attorneys for applicant so that a personal interview may be arranged.

If necessary, an appropriate extension of time to respond is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Patent Office Deposit Account No. 05-0208.

Respectfully submitted,



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